



SUMMARY REPORT OF CO-CREATION DIALOGUE WITH CORAF, USAID, KSU-SIIL, AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR A RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND ADVISORY COORDINATION HUB (REACH) IN WEST AFRICA

SUMMARY REPORT

of the

**Co-Creation Dialogue with CORAF, USAID, KSU-SIIL, and
Other Key Stakeholders for a
Research, Extension, and Advisory Coordination Hub (REACH)
in West Africa**

I. Summit Results[®]

Prepared by

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Disclaimer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Co-Creation Dialogue with CORAF, USAID, KSU-SIIL, and Other Key Stakeholders for a Research, Extension, and Advisory Coordination Hub (REACH) in West Africa

BACKGROUND: The vision of this Research, Extension and Advisory Coordination Hub (REACH) in West Africa (WA) is a strengthened West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development/Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles (CORAF) to meet the objectives of its strategic plan more widely with its broad range of partners throughout the region. Progressively, CORAF will better coordinate, align and integrate research, extension and advisory activities in the region for efficient use of resources and to meet the demands of different clienteles including producers, researchers, policy makers and the private sector. In an initial pilot phase of approximately 4 years, REACH will have a particular, although not exclusive, focus on USAID's activities in Feed the Future and Resilience Zones in Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Niger.

For the pilot-phase, REACH's proposed objectives are to:

- I. Improve coordination, alignment and integration of relevant activities
- II. Create and strengthen technology parks and facilitate effective flow of information and innovations
- III. Build human and institutional capacity

Details of the REACH concept were discussed through a co-creation process involving USAID's West Africa Regional mission and the Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, CORAF, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification (SIIL), and other relevant partners. Through this dialogue it was recommended to add "I" to the Hub's name to encompass "innovations" and its importance. Therefore, the name was changed to "iREACH".

ATTENDEES: Representatives from (See attached Participant List):

- CORAF secretariat
- CORAF's Regional Centers of Specialization
- Private Sector
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (DC), Sahel Regional Office (Dakar), West Africa Regional Mission (Accra), Senegal Mission (Dakar) and relevant USAID Host Country Missions
- Kansas State University (KSU) – Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL)

PURPOSE: To develop, through a co-creation process, a CORAF-lead network for improved coordination of relevant agricultural research activities and identification, evaluation, and delivery of research outputs across the West Africa region.

GOAL: The goal of the workshop was to create a shared understanding of why a Regional Innovation Platform in West Africa is important and to discuss the Concept Note for moving forward. The participants reviewed and discussed the Concept Note in regards to the following:

- Alignment to CORAF's strategic plan
- Relevance of the three key objectives: (a) coordination, alignment, and integration of relevant activities; (b) technology parks and facilitate effective flow of information and innovations, and; (c) build human and institutional capacity.

PARTNERS: Participants' then identified the *strengths* of the partners, and then the perceived *needs* of key stakeholders, and then the *opportunities* of partners and stakeholders. Participants clustered the input into the following categories and developed value statements for each category as well as identified statements that represents *success*, if appropriately addressed:

- Coordination
- Partnership
- Information Sharing
- Scaling Technologies
- Capacity Building
- Business Development
- Policy

TECHNOLOGY PARKS: Partners discussed the organization, location, purpose, protocols for technologies, and the review process as well as potential management. They identified the geographical areas for the Technology Parks based on the following criteria:

- Representative of 1 or 2 of the key farming systems
- Maximize visibility ease of access
- Government / NARES land or other contributions
- Feed The Future (FTF) Zones Of Influence (ZOI) and the Resilience Zones

Ultimately, the workshop was well received and served to strengthen the commitment of the partnerships as well as solidifying CORAF as the lead for the initiative. CORAF is willing to move forward and discuss the structure with USAID and SILL.

This report provides the results from each activity and is organized by the following format:

- *Activity #1:* Overview and reactions to the concept note and REACH
- *Activity #3:* Results per topic/theme, addressing the following questions:
 - What is the *value* of this topic or theme?
 - If successful, what would success look like in quantitative and qualitative terms?
- *Activity #4:* Mapping our way forward for the Technology Parks
- *Activity #2:* Identify *Strengths*, *Needs*, and *Opportunities* of partners, key stakeholders, and beneficiaries.

REACH Agenda 09 and 10 September 2019

Co-Creation Dialogue with CORAF, USAID, KSU-SIIL, and Other Key Stakeholders for a RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND ADVISORY COORDINATION HUB (REACH) in West Africa

9 September 2019
13.30 to 17.45

10 September 2019
09.00 to 17.00

Royal Horizon Baobab Hotel ~ Village De La Somone BP 81, Somone, Senegal
Phone: +221 33 939 71 71

ATTENDEES: Representatives from:

- CORAF secretariat
- CORAF's Regional Centers of Specialization
- Private Sector
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – Bureau for Resilience and Food Security (DC), Sahel Regional Office (Dakar), West Africa Regional Mission (Accra), Senegal Mission (Dakar) and relevant USAID Host Country Missions
- Kansas State University (KSU) – Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL)

PURPOSE: To develop, through a co-creation process, a CORAF-lead network for improved coordination of relevant agricultural research activities and identification, evaluation, and delivery of research outputs across the West Africa region. The goal is to create a shared understanding of the following:

- *Rationale:* Why a Regional Innovation Platform in West Africa is important?
- *Finalize the following:*
 - *Concept Note:* Review draft
 - *Objectives:* What would be key activities, outcomes, and deliverables for success?
 - *Structure:* What would a Regional Innovation Platform look like?
 - *Technology Parks:* Organization, location, purpose, technologies, review process and management?
- *Commitment:* Necessary resources and who should be involved and their role?
- *Timeframe and next steps:* What would be required timeframe for development and implementation?
 - *Development of a MoU or protocols, roles of key partners*
 - *Draft proposal with timeline and budget (e.g. countries, regions, partners etc..)*
- *Other:* What are other key considerations required to create an enabling environment for success of a Regional Innovation Platform in West Africa?

**Co-Creation Dialogue with
CORAF, USAID, KSU-SIIL, and Other Key Stakeholders for a
RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND ADVISORY COORDINATION HUB (REACH)
in West Africa**

FACILITATORS: Jan Middendorf and Vara Prasad – Kansas State University

AGENDA: 9 SEPTEMBER 2019 – NELSON MANDELA CONFERENCE ROOM

12:00 **Registration**

12:30 **Lunch**

13:30 **Welcome and Introductions:** Abdulai Jalloh, CORAF

13:45 **Set the Context:** Nora Lapitan/Catherine Hamlin, USAID

- Brief background on the concept of a Regional Innovation Platform in West Africa
 - o Concept, rationale, and purpose

14:15 **CORAF Overview:** Abdulai Jalloh, CORAF

- CORAF Overview
 - o Mission, research, focus and strategic plan

14:45 **SIIL Overview:** Vara Prasad, Kansas State University

- Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab (SIIL) Overview
 - o Mission, portfolio, and learnings from Innovation Platform – Center of Excellence Model from Cambodia

15:15 **Program Overview and Plan of Action**

- Why are we here? What are you being asked to do?
- What will be the results of our time together?
- Ground rules for dialogue

15:45 **Co-Creation Dialogue:** All Participants

- Overview and reactions to the concept note and objectives of the Innovation Platform?
- Key partners and stakeholders to this initiative?

16:15 **Break:** Coffee and Tea

16:45 **Co-Creation Dialogue Continued**

- Key, activities, outcomes, and deliverables for this initiative?
- Structure of platform and how would it leverage and complement existing efforts?

17:15 **Wrap Up:** David Akana, CORAF

17:45 **Adjourn**

**Co-Creation Dialogue with
CORAF, USAID, SIIL, and Other Key Stakeholders for a
RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND ADVISORY COORDINATION HUB (REACH)
in West Africa**

AGENDA: 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 – NELSON MANDELA CONFERENCE ROOM

09:00 **Welcome Back:** Abdulai Jalloh, CORAF

09:15 **Recap of Day 1:** Vara Prasad and All Participants

09:30 **Alignment of CORAF Strategic Plan with Regional Innovation Platform**

- Highlight areas of alignment of CORAF strategic plan with objectives of the platform
- Identify strengths of partners and key stakeholders by objectives

10:30 **Break** – Coffee and Tea

10:45 **Analysis of CORAF for the Regional Innovation Platform**

- Identify needs of partners and key stakeholders by objectives
- Identify opportunities of interactions of partners and stakeholders by objectives

11:15 **Further Analysis**

- Identify key partners and their roles – related to each objective of the platform
- Existing resources from partners and stakeholders
- Resources needed and could be leveraged

12:30 **Lunch:** Hosted at the Hotel

13:30 **Mapping our Way Forward**

- Identify geographical areas and lead institutions or entity for Technology Parks
- Identify partnerships and collaboration
- Identify key individuals and activities

15:30 **Co-Creation Dialogue**

- What are other key considerations for create an enabling environment for success of a Regional Innovation Platform in West Africa?

16:00 **Reflections and Next Steps**

- *Timeframe and next steps:* for development and implementation?

16:30 **Closing Remarks:** Abdulai Jalloh, CORAF
Nora Lapitan/Catherine Hamlin, USAID

17:00 **Thank You and Adjourn:** Jan Middendorf and Vara Prasad, KSU – SIIL

REACH Participants List:

	Institution	First Name	Last Name	Email
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		Ibrahima	THIAM	ibthiam53@gmail.com

REACH Summit Notes:

Activity #1: Overview and reactions to the REACH concept note and objectives.

Initial Reactions and Observations of the REACH Concept Note
– Visualize success → what does that look like in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years ? → can put practical steps in place to reach those goals.
– Ensure sustainability in the initiative
– This needs to be sustainable. Not a project with a start and end date.
– No matter the name, change is needed → no need for business as usual!
– The eventual choices / decision need to be flexible and evolving based on needs.
– Maybe one already contained → may need to be more explicitly expressed
– Identification of stakeholders is essential!
– All participants need to be active and engaged for success
– Encouraged by CORAF involvement
– Has to be matched with CORAF vision → need <u>factual</u> and <u>physical</u> platform. Already a digital platform available, but need practical/ physical platform
– Want to building capacity through the CORAF strategic plan.
– Add finance into human capacity development
– Process needs to be more inclusive and demand-driven by the <u>farmer</u> as well as other actors
– Reach the end-users (farmers) should be the main goal of all Hub activities
– Target audiences → Policy Makers
– Rethink what goes into virtual platforms and how to sort through them so they can be used effectively.
– Integrated proposed virtual platform with what is already available
– Do we agree about term “technology park” → could be a place for training and research as well as a place for entrepreneurship → are we able to create “true” technology parks? Especially because there are different needs across the public and private sectors.
– Technology parks → we need concrete criteria as to what will be displayed at the park
– Assign one key technology in each participating country for dissemination
– Missing link: selecting “flagship” technologies/projects → potential 4 th objective: Proven practices to test successes immediately
– Pilot technologies parks to test system → can be scaled
– How to scale & who are all the key participants may be outside of what is stated in concept note.
– Importance of proven, vetted and scalable innovations.
– Up scaling to benefit farmer → Very important but <u>key</u> is <u>coordination</u> . The <u>Hub</u> is there to avoid duplication for better impact.
– Coordination activities → should they be limited to mapping and tracking? Will the Hub have the power to move outside to those activities to better capture the needs of participants?

Initial Reactions and Observations of the REACH Concept Note	
–	Could be connected to Regional Trade Fair
–	How will private/sector business play a role? How to choose the technologies that go into the technology parks? There are lots of innovations, but how to disseminate them?
–	Identify users and clients of this Hub: private sector, government, public institutions, etc...→ have a demonstration of the pilot program → criteria and protocols needed
–	Research today is market oriented / driven
–	This initiative is <u>not</u> a project → need a shift lens slightly to see this as a network that takes research and innovation to farmer.
–	Have one general, overarching objective before diving into the specifics (can propose)
–	This Hub is very (too?) ambitious! It is possible, but will take an immense amount of work. We need to acknowledge the challenges to overcome them.

Activity #2: Participants identified *strengths* of the partners, and then the perceived *needs* of key stakeholders, and then *opportunities* of partners, key stakeholders, and beneficiaries. The results from all of the comments are found on pages 26 to 30.

Activity #3: After identifying the *strengths* of the partners, and then the perceived *needs* of key stakeholders, and then the *opportunities* of partners and stakeholders, the participants then clustered the input into the following categories and developed value statements for each category as well as identified statements that represents *success*, if appropriately addressed:

- Coordination
- Partnership
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- Scaling Technologies
- Capacity Building
- Business Development
- Policy

Post-it notes that represented the overarching goals and opportunities of REACH, if implemented successfully included the following:

- Lifting rural communities out of poverty
- Resilient communities
- Better livelihoods
- Better nutrition for kids/moms

Other post-it notes were clustered around *Resource Mobilization*, which was determined critical for implementation of any initiative, and found on page 23.

The results from addressing the following questions for each topic are presented by topic, value statement, and success in the subsequent pages.

- What is the value of this topic or theme?
- If successful, what would success look like in quantitative and qualitative terms?

Activity #3 Results:

Per topic/theme, address the following questions:

- What is the *value* of this topic or theme?
- If successful, what would success look like in quantitative and qualitative terms?

TOPIC: COORDINATION

Value Statement:

Coordination is important because this way iREACH will:

- Leverage resources and expertise
- Avoid duplication
- Ensure correct implementation
- Judicious/efficient resources use (+ accountability)
- Harmonized system for monitoring
- Opportunity for knowledge – sharing
- Alignment / synergy between iREACH and others partners (including county level)

What does success look like for effective coordination?

- Strategic partnerships identified and developed
- New resources leveraged (financial, expertise , institutional)
- Continued commitment of resources partners
- Number of dissemination of technologies
- Improve understanding and decision-making among policy makers, produces, agribusinesses
- More produces adopt technologies
- Number of joint planning meetings organized
- Improved funding in terms of volume and number
- Number of collaborative projects implemented
- Number of successful initiatives
- Number of stakeholders participating in research and extension increased
- Number of functional Eco-regional platform (Sahel, Guinea, Forest Sardinian) platform
- Effective use of the tracker system
- Number of alignment of programs
- Better integration

COORDINATION		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convening Power – CORAF– ES - Convening power, thought leader, and networking - Coordination - CORAF Secretariat - Convening Power - CORAF – Secretariat – Authority from diverse stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CORAF – Additional expertise - CORAF-ES – Effective accountability of its partners (Capacity Development) - Regular Periodic Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CORAF – a strengthened institution and a stronger UM system - CORAF – On-going PAIRED Program



COORDINATION		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CORAF – Secretariat – effective coordination capacity- CORAF / Regional coordination- CORAF / Regional Mandate- CORAF recognition by the RECs as the Regional leading Agricultural R & D- CORAF-ES – Knowledge management capacity- CORAF-ES Coordination capacity- Regional facilitation role of USAID/WA with regional organizations and bilateral USAID Missions/Programs- Thought Leadership- USAID’s convening power with the development community and donors- USAID’s global influence, development community, scientific community and donor partners- USAID’s thought leadership in research for development		

TOPIC: PARTNERSHIPS

Value Statement:

The success of iREACH is predicated on partnerships between:

- Donors
- Research Institutions
- National Partners (government, parliament, municipalities, etc...)
- Private sector
- Extension services
- Financial institutions
- Insurance institutions
- Universities

The benefits of partnership being:

- Higher impact
- Subsidiarity/ complementarity (competitive advantage)

What success looks like for Partnerships:

- Increased number of partnerships established
- Increased number of MoU established
- Increased number new donors
- Increased number new funds leveraged
- Increased number credit allocated
- Increased number of famers/ produces insured
- Increased number of PPPs
- Increased number of research collaborations
- Increased number of shared technologies
- Increased number of partnerships engaging youth and/ or involving educational institutions
- Increased number of financial institution making available facilities for uptake
- Increased number of partners engaged
- Identification of stock-taking partnerships, coordination, and mapping
- PPP have the potential to take the technologies to the market

The broader results are:

- jobs
- income
- wellbeing
- economic growth

PARTNERSHIPS		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa-RISING broad range of partnerships in Ghana & Mali (Private, Civil, Public) - Devices already in progress - Inclusive activities - Partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoFA: Ministry of Agricultural Ghana – willingness / Buy-in to collaborate, share information, contribute to the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to resources & technical expertise from CORAF and partners and USAID and Research partners - Advisory support services improved - Africa-RISING existent of partnerships already working in technology parks (Hubs) - Ghana/Africa RISING – Presence of the Agricultural Sector Working



PARTNERSHIPS		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
		<p>Group (ASWG) to provide iREACH publicity more broadly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Having new partners and more profitability- Mali/Africa RISING – strong linkage to development partners, FENABE & AMEDS- Partners – Emerging commitments on the part of DP and National Governments to work towards food security in Africa- Partnerships both public and private- Ready to collaborate with other in the region, etc.- Real volunteer of collaboration of actors (PPP – Public, Private Sector, Partnership)- Synergistic partnerships, complementary strengths of CORAF & USAID coming together to support shared goals

TOPIC: INFORMATION SHARING

Value Statement:

- Information sharing is important for the success of iREACH because it serves as a tool for collective engagement, effective awareness creation, sharing of experiences and efficient use of limited resources.

What will success look like in terms of information sharing physical/virtual?

1. Increasing number of partners and stakeholder interacting on the platform.
2. More awareness of the importance of the platform created among partners/ stakeholders.
3. Increasing number of technologies shared through experience sharing on the platform.
4. Increasing deployment of digital technologies to facilitate information sharing on the platform.

Physical Platform (Technology Parks):

1. Number of visitors
2. Number of knowledge products shared
3. Number of workshops organised
4. Number of scientific publications
5. Number of field days organised
6. Number of exchange visits
7. Financial resources attracted to iREACH

Virtual Platform:

1. Number of visitors to the platform
2. Number of downloads of documents
3. Number of inquiries/ effective response
4. Increased number of student yearly
5. Number of information shared used in this platform

INFORMATION SHARING		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Accessibility of knowledge and exchange (share) – Experience in Technology Parks – Online repository of technologies – Stakeholders' indigenous knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access to information / technologies – Bilateral Missions and implementation partners – Information Highway – Media journalist / Resources persons – USAID and RECs – Coordination /transparent information sharing of donor investments on agricultural technologies – USAID/Bilateral – database/matrix of in-country USG-funded agricultural programs (and TDY admin) – USAID/DC – Knowledge of farmers' needs, markets demands and research gaps – USAID-Bilateral – facilitation – linkage of USG-funded programs to bilateral Feed the Future programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information Sharing – Interactions between different speakers – Learning from each other – Production of knowledge is easier in the region – Sharing of Resources – Sharing resources and learning from other regions

TOPIC: TECHNOLOGY OR SCALING

Value Statement:

- Upscaling technologies is value because it will make technologies and innovations more available
- Platform necessity for each country
- Animation of the platform by the stakeholders
- Diffusion of the innovation by the Platform
- Promotion of the insurance by the platform

What success looks like for Scaling:

1. Functional platform in each country
2. Increased number of enterprises created through the platform
3. Increased number of insured enterprises through the platform
4. Number of Producers adopting technologies
5. Number of Scientists incentivized to produce additional technologies responsive to use needs
6. Will attract new financing/investment?
7. Will attraction attract more student into agriculture
8. Number of project insured will increase
9. Increasing use of digital technologies deployed for upscaling
10. Increasing yield per unit area of land

UPSCALE TECHNOLOGY OR SCALING		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CORAF / Expertise in up-scaling - CSIR – INSTI, the repository of all technologies/innovations generated by Agriculture research institutions - CSIR the main technology generation and agricultural R & D institution in Ghana, with mandate to coordinate all national research activities - Distribution capacity across the Hubs of the regions for broader networking - Existence of platforms and innovations at the regional level - Experience in scaling up proven technologies - Inclusive stakeholders engagement - ISRA is present in all Senegalese AEZ and has developed many innovations ready for scaling up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access of potential beneficiaries to appropriate innovations - Africa-RISING Broader visibility to reach scale - Agricultural Extensions – appropriate approach not available - Gendered extension services - Need to pursue an on-going process of technology transfer for producers - Selection of innovations - Up scaling strategy and modus operandi (CORAF ES) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current development of agricultural insurance - Effectively put innovation at scale - Highly motivated farmers - The platform will foster scaling of technologies that can help to empower women and youth - Strong demand in technologies and innovations - Stakeholders – huge demand for technological innovation among smallholder farmers and other value chain actors - Stakeholders – potential to improve yields and enhance agricultural productivity exists - System resilience with innovations and disseminations

TOPIC: CAPACITY BUILDING

Value Statement:

1. Effective adoption of appropriate technologies.
2. Developed appropriate business models.
3. Effectively use IT for scaling of technologies
4. Informed decision making by policy makers
5. Effective use of desired technologies by producers and processors
6. Increases the number students admitted to study agriculture in universities

Success in Capacity Building will be demonstrated by:

- Number of successful business (Enterprises) established
- Number ICT users to access technologies
- Number of strategic decisions taken to facilitate scaling
- Number of people benefiting from the use of promoted technologies
- Number of people with enhanced capacity to innovate
- Number of trained people (Ph.D.; MSc)
- Financial sustainability
- Accountability
- Number of new technologies generated
- Number of evidence based policies/ regulations adopted
- CORAF's coordination capacity improved
- Number of Centres of Excellence increased
- Number of enterprises managed by women / youth
- Number of high schools with agricultural curricula
- Number of enterprises practicing sustainable agriculture
- Number enterprises practising biological agriculture

CAPACITY BUILDING		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the IRAD (Availability of staff/faculty) - Availability of staff and faculty of agriculture - Capacity building - Critical mass of researchers and innovations - CSIR-INSTI has expertise in the development and deployment of digital technologies to facilitate upscaling - Existing National Agriculture Systems in each country - ISRA has enough research and administrative capacity to lead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa-RISING: implementation support and administration personnel - Agricultural Extension - qualified staff not available - Appropriate IT equipment and connectivity - Capacity Building - Enhance the link between research and extension services - Farmers – New appropriate technologies for adoption - Farmers / Value Chain Actors: Limited access to relevant, timely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build countries' capacity to produce for growing agricultural-food economy in WA (urbanized WA) - Capacity building, increasing yield and agricultural sustainability - Effective relations between researchers, extensionists and end users - Highly qualified university professors and researchers



CAPACITY BUILDING		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility of actors - New technologies - Role of USAID / WA in supporting capacity building and technology scaling of CORAF (PAIRED project) - Testing and dissemination for adoption by end user 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and up-to-date technological innovations - Human Resources - Project designers and implementers – research evidence; data; proven technologies; research outcomes; mapping of actors/technicians - Qualified and motivated personnel - Relationship between research and extension services - Research community – limited extension of developed technologies arising from poorly resourced extension agencies - Research Systems – Updated lab equipment - Research, Extension, Farmers – weak research-extension and farmer linkages - Smallholder farmers: Access to low-cost technologies and best practices and market demand - Technology demonstration facilities for beneficiaries / end users 	

TOPIC: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, (E.G., ESPECIALLY TO EMPOWER WOMEN & YOUTH)

Value Statement:

- Create value - addition to be globally competitive on domestic, regional and international markets
- Creation of JOBS and Agri-businesses for entrepreneurship and agro-industry development
- Add-value by putting at-scale appropriate technologies, training, services, infrastructures, and innovations
- Access to credit facilities
- Access to infrastructures and equipment for new business

What success looks like for Business Development:

- Number of new jobs created (e.g., more agri-entrepreneurs, including women, youth)
- Number of quality agricultural products made available
- % Increase in agricultural credit facilities
- More businesses have access to improved infrastructure and equipment
- Reduced vulnerability of marginalized youth
- Number of businesses benefiting from improved equipment and infrastructure
- Doing business index
- Numbers of farmers / businesses benefiting from credit facilities
- Number of new start-up businesses created
- Number of agro-industries established
- Increasing volumes of exported value added agriproducts
- Increasing volume of biological products

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (E.G., ESPECIALLY TO EMPOWER WOMEN & YOUTH)		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa Rising - Research Capacity and AG. - Technical expertise - Availability of proven technologies - CORAF/ Basket of technologies developed by Centers of Specialization = - Gender smart and climate smart technologies - Giving value-added to technologies - Identification of new technologies - Interface Business Development from private innovations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive language of technologies - Easy access of technologies - Technologies/ vs. Agroecology areas - Entrepreneurs - High yielding - innovations - Entrepreneurs (farmers) - Low access to credit - Farmer's need. - Improved technology to sustain yield - market - Private Sector - Enabling environment more incentive for agribusiness - Private Sector - Technical and financial services for transferring technologies from the LABs to the enterprises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa biodiversity and culture - Availability of raw materials and input supply - Better market access - Existence of huge markets and consumers in the region - For actors - Employment opportunities for youths and women - High need of cutting edge technologies by private sector - Huge market across the region - Development of value chain across the region

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (E.G., ESPECIALLY TO EMPOWER WOMEN & YOUTH)		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linkages to resources and expertise on agric. technologies, private sector partnership, etc... (of USAID) - Research Infused - Taking risks and making private investments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Sector need - Favourable environment - capacity building - funding - Private Sector/ Interface - Applications of subsidiarity principle at CORAF Secretariat - Supply and demand - low price at the farm gate - Supply and Demand (Market) - market not available - Women and Youth - Access to needed technologies - Trainings, infrastructure, and credit to develop agribusiness - Youths - Business opportunities/ Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Larger MO of youngsters interest in agriculture - Local and regional market availability - Opportunities - Free Trade Zone - Private Sector - New businesses - Private sector engagement - Promotion of Technologies and innovations - Through demonstration and leveraged platform attract more investment and finance for scaling/commercialization - To deepen African-led prioritization of agric. technologies and innovations - Uptake by private sectors and NARS and widespread adoption of innovations

TOPIC: POLICY

Value Statement:

- Creates political will for enabling environments to establish iREACH:
- Favorable laws and regulation (IPR, seed and inputs laws, biosafety laws, access to market, etc.)
- Access to land
- Favourable credit for sustainability
- Agricultural inputs incentives (e.g., taxes and waivers, incentive for agro-industry development)

What does success look like for Policy?

- high number of released varieties used
- high quantities of certified seeds produced and distributed
- high number of licenced technologies of patented varieties
- number of PPP contracts established for upscaling innovation
- number of available chemical and organic fertilizer formulation
- improved / reformed agricultural inputs _ policies
- number of hectares of land dedicated to farming
- number of farmer benefiting credit facilities resulting from improved government policies for agricultural finance
- increased in GDP from the contribution of agriculture
- adoption of international trade standards for export/trade
- increased livelihoods
- increase in volume of regional trade
- market-friendly regulatory policies
- number of good agricultural practices released
- policy makers adopt iREACH technologies
- improved rankings of Doing Business Index (DBI) related to agriculture
- more gender-sensitive agriculture policies / programs / projects
- land tenure reforms incorporating best practices
- increased adoption and implementation of harmonized regional agriculture/trade policies
- How do we engaged policy makers for valued added?

POLICY		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CORAF-ES Effective implementation of regional regulations and policies - Gov'ts/MPS – Results that investments are having an impact - Policy Makers – Political will – national & local laws – sensitization of the public on existing laws - Policy Sector – Good laws but not applied (e.g., see laws) - Stakeholders buy-in for REACH - State Support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buy-in from policy makers - Common Policy and engagement (WENU – ECOWAS AU, etc.) - Effective management system for intellectual property rights - Existing of ECOWAS (e.g. stronger connection with them) - Favourable credit conditions - For government – political will - Harmonization and cross-pollenization of research

POLICY		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities – ECOWAS support for food security in the region - Policy Makers commitment (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS) - Political Engagement - Political will of the national governments - Worldwide condition (e.g. biodiversity) – we are in this together!

Resources Mobilization is critical for implementation for any initiative, therefore, the participants viewed this topic as key to all of the topics.

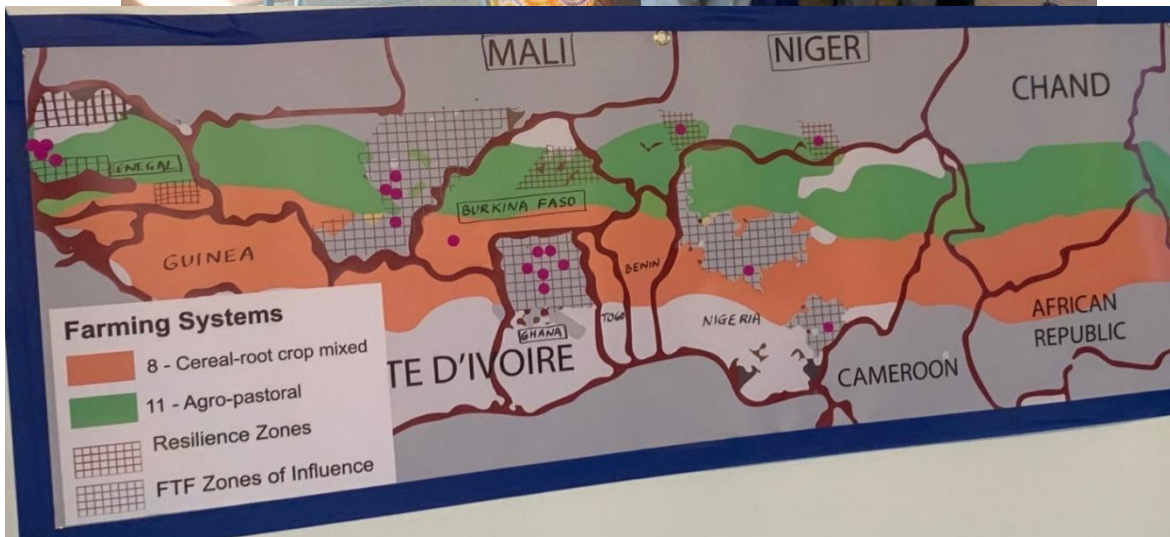
RESOURCE MOBILIZATION		
Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate financial support and materials - CORAF / Availability of funds - Financial support of each partner - Funds administrative support - NARES Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved funding motivation for researchers (incentive) - More funding for research - Technical and financial partners' engagement (i.e., USAID) - Willingness of USAID and other donors to support CORAF

Activity #4: Mapping our way forward

TECHNOLOGY PARKS:

Partners discussed the organization, location, purpose, protocols for technologies, and the review process as well as potential management. They identified the geographical areas for the Technology Parks based on the following criteria:

- Representative of 1 or 2 of the key farming systems
- Maximize visibility ease of access
- Government / NARES land or other contributions
- Feed The Future (FTF) Zones Of Influence (ZOI) and the Resilience Zones
- Feed The Future (FTF) Zones Of Influence (ZOI) and the Resilience Zones



RESULTS:

Each participant placed one dot where they believed would be the best location for the Technology Park, given the criterion above. The following locations are the order of the most dots: Ghana (6); Mali (4); Senegal (4); Niger (2); Nigeria (2); and Burkina Faso (1). It was stressed that this is not a ranking nor final outcome for the TPs location, but rather an exercise for input and reflection.

WORDLE: Combinations of responses when asked “When you think of implementing REACH, what are the first 3 words that come to mind?”



NEXT STEPS:

Overall, the workshop was well received and served to strengthen the commitment of the partnerships as well as solidifying CORAF as the lead for the initiative. CORAF is willing to move forward and discuss the structure with USAID and SIIL.

Next steps included compiling the notes from the Summit and revising the Concept Note for distribution. The management structure would also be discussed as part of the revised Concept Note.

Activity #2: Identify Strengths, Needs, and Opportunities of partners, key stakeholders, and beneficiaries

Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
Accessibility of knowledge and exchange (share)	Access of potential beneficiaries to appropriate innovations	Access to resources & technical expertise from CORAF and partners and USAID and Research partners
Africa-RISING - Research Capacity and AG. - Technical expertise	Africa-RISING Broader visibility to reach scale	Advisory support services improved
Africa-RISING broad range of partnerships in Ghana & Mali (Private, Civil, Public)	Agricultural Extensions – appropriate approach not available	Africa biodiversity and culture
At the IRAD (Availability of staff/faculty)	Appropriate financial support and materials	Africa-RISING existent of partnerships already working in technology parks (Hubs)
Availability of proven technologies	CORAF / Availability of funds	Availability of raw materials and input supply
Availability of staff and faculty of agriculture	CORAF-ES Effective implementation of regional regulations and policies	Better market access
Capacity building	CORAF – Additional expertise	Build countries' capacity to produce for growing agricultural-food economy in WA (urbanized WA)
Convening Power – CORAF-ES	CORAF-ES – Effective accountability of its partners (Capacity Development)	Buy-in from policy makers
Convening power, thought leader, and networking	Africa-RISING: implementation support and administration personnel	Capacity building, increasing yield and agricultural sustainability
Coordination	Agricultural Extension - qualified staff not available	Common Policy and engagement (WENU – ECOWAS AU, etc.)
CORAF – Secretariat – Authority from diverse stakeholders	Appropriate IT equipment and connectivity	CORAF – a strengthened institution and a stronger UM system
CORAF – Secretariat – effective coordination capacity	Access to information / technologies	CORAF – On-going PAIRED Program
CORAF / Expertise in up-scaling	Bilateral Missions and implementation partners	Current development of agricultural insurance
CORAF / Regional coordination	Comprehensive language of technologies	Effective management system for intellectual property rights
CORAF / Regional Mandate	Capacity Building	Effective relations between researchers, extensionists and end users
CORAF recognition by the RECs as the Regional leading Agricultural R & D	Easy access of technologies - Technologies/ vs. Agroecology areas	Effectively put innovation at scale

Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
CORAF Secretariat - Convening Power	Enhance the link between research and extension services	Existence of huge markets and consumers in the region
CORAF/ Basket of technologies developed by Centers of Specialization =	Entrepreneurs - High yielding - innovations	Existing of ECOWAS (e.g. stronger connection with them)
CORAF-ES – Knowledge management capacity	Entrepreneurs (farmers) - Low access to credit	Favourable credit conditions
CORAF-ES Coordination capacity	Farmers – New appropriate technologies for adoption	For actors - Employment opportunities for youths and women
Critical mass of researchers and innovations	Farmers / Value Chain Actors: Limited access to relevant, timely and up-to-date technological innovations	For government – political will
CSIR – INSTI, the repository of all technologies/innovations generated by Agriculture research institutions	Farmer's need. - Improved technology to sustain yield - market	Ghana/Africa RISING – Presence of the Agricultural Sector Working Group (ASWG) to provide iREACH publicity more broadly
CSIR the main technology generation and agricultural R & D institution in Ghana, with mandate to coordinate all national research activities	Financial support of each partner	Harmonization and cross-pollination of research
CSIR-INSTI has expertise in the development and deployment of digital technologies to facilitate upscaling	Funds administrative support	Having new partners and more profitability
Devices already in progress	Gendered extension services	High need of cutting edge technologies by private sector
Distribution capacity across the Hubs of the regions for broader networking	Gov'ts/MPS – Results that investments are having an impact	Highly motivated farmers
Existence of platforms and innovations at the regional level	Human Resources	Highly qualified university professors and researchers
Existing National Agriculture Systems in each country	Information Highway	Huge market across the region - Development of value chain across the region
Experience in scaling up proven technologies	Media journalist / Resources persons	Improved funding motivation for researchers (incentive)
Experience in Technology Parks	MoFA: Ministry of Agricultural Ghana – willingness / Buy-in to collaborate, share information, contribute to the process	Information Sharing
Fundraising	NARES Funding	Interactions between different speakers

Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
Gender smart and climate smart technologies	Need to pursue an on-going process of technology transfer for producers	Larger <u>MO</u> of youngsters interest in agriculture
Giving value-added to technologies	Policy Makers – Political will – national & local laws – sensitization of the public on existing laws	Learning from each other
Identification of new technologies	Policy Sector – Good laws but not applied (e.g., see laws)	Local and regional market availability
Inclusive activities	Private Sector - Enabling environment more incentive for agribusiness	Mali/Africa RISING – strong linkage to development partners, FENABE & AMEDS
Inclusive stakeholders engagement	Private Sector - Technical and financial services for transferring technologies from the LABs to the enterprises	More funding for research
Interface Business Development from private innovations	Private Sector need - Favourable environment - capacity building - funding	Opportunities – ECOWAS support for food security in the region
ISRA has enough research and administrative capacity to lead	Private Sector/ Interface - Applications of subsidiarity principle at CORAF Secretariat	Opportunities - Free Trade Zone
ISRA is present in all Senegalese AEZ and has developed many innovations ready for scaling up	Project designers and implementers – research evidence; data; proven technologies; research outcomes; mapping of actors/technicians	Partners – Emerging commitments on the part of DP and National Governments to work towards food security in Africa
Linkages to resources and expertise on agric. technologies, private sector partnership, etc. (of USAID)	Qualified and motivated personnel	Partnerships both public and private
Mobility of actors	Regular Periodic Meetings	Policy Makers commitment (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS)
New technologies	Relationship between research and extension services	Political Engagement
Online repository of technologies	Research community – limited extension of developed technologies arising from poorly resourced extension agencies	Political will of the national governments
Partnerships	Research Systems – Updated lab equipment	Private Sector - New businesses
Regional facilitation role of USAID/WA with regional organizations and bilateral USAID Missions/Programs	Research, Extension, Farmers – weak research-extension and farmer linkages	Private sector engagement
Research Infused	Selection of innovations	Production of knowledge is easier in the region

Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
Role of USAID/WA in supporting capacity building and technology scaling of CORAF (PAIRED project)	Smallholder farmers: Access to low-cost technologies and best practices and market demand	Ready to collaborate with other in the region, etc.
Stakeholders' indigenous knowledge	Stakeholders buy-in for REACH	Real volunteer of collaboration of actors (PPP – Public, Private Sector Partnership)
Taking risks and making private investments	State Support	Sharing of Resources
Testing and dissemination for adoption by end user	Supply and demand - low price at the farm gate	Sharing resources and learning from other regions
Thought Leadership	Supply and Demand (Market) - market not available	Stakeholders – huge demand for technological innovation among smallholder farmers and other value chain actors
USAID's convening power with the development community and donors	Technology demonstration facilities for beneficiaries / end users	Stakeholders – potential to improve yields and enhance agricultural productivity exists
USAID's global influence, development community, scientific community and donor partners	Up scaling strategy and modus operandi (CORAF ES)	Strong demand in technologies and innovations
USAID's thought leadership in research for development	USAID and RECs – Coordination/transparent information sharing of donor investments on agricultural technologies	Synergistic partnerships, complementary strengths of CORAF & USAID coming together to support shared goals
Role of USAID/WA in supporting capacity building and technology scaling of CORAF (PAIRED project)	USAID/Bilateral – database/matrix of in-country USG-funded agricultural programs (and TDY admin)	System resilience with innovations and disseminations
	USAID/DC – Knowledge of farmers' needs, markets demands and research gaps	Technical and financial partners' engagement (i.e., USAID)
	USAID-Bilateral – facilitation – linkage of USG-funded programs to bilateral Feed the Future programs	The platform will foster scaling of technologies that can help to empower women and youth
	Women and Youth - Access to needed technologies - Trainings, infrastructure, and credit to develop agribusiness	Willingness of USAID and other donors to support CORAF
	Youths - Business opportunities/Employment	Worldwide condition (e.g. biodiversity) – we are in this together!
		Promotion of Technologies and innovations

Strengths	Needs	Opportunities
		Through demonstration and leveraged platform attract more investment and finance for scaling/commercialization
		To deepen African-led prioritization of agric. technologies and innovations
		Uptake by private sectors and NARS and widespread adoption of innovations

REACH Summit Invitation:



Leader de l'Innovation Agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre
Leading Agricultural Innovation in West and Central Africa

August 20, 2019

The Director General

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Dear Sir

INVITATION TO ATTEND CONSULTATION ON RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND ADVISORY COORDINATION HUB (REACH): SALY, SENEGAL – September 9 & 10, 2019

CORAF is collaborating with the Bureau of Food Security of USAID in Washington to establish a Research, Extension and Advisory Coordination Hub (REACH) that will coordinate the various efforts of USAID in West Africa (WA). The vision of REACH is a strengthened CORAF to meet the objectives of its strategic plan more widely with its broad range of partners throughout the region. Progressively, CORAF will better coordinate, align and integrate research, extension and advisory activities in the region for efficient use of resources and to meet the demands of different clienteles including producers, researchers, policy makers and the private sector.

For the pilot-phase, REACH's proposed objectives are to: (i) Improve coordination, alignment and integration of relevant activities; (ii) Create and strengthen technology parks and facilitate effective flow of information and innovations; and (iii) Build human and institutional capacity.

Within the REACH framework, Technology Parks will be hosted by CORAF's Regional Centers of Specialization to demonstrate new and promising technologies from the USAID investments and serve as a one-stop shop for researchers, policy makers, development partners, and farmers seeking information on available innovations. It will also serve to attract collaborations with the private sector and other development partners in the region.

In view of the critical role that the CORAF RCoS are expected to play in REACH, it has been deemed appropriate for the Heads of the RCoS to be part of the co-creation process involving USAID's West Africa Regional mission and Bureau for Resilience and Food Security, CORAF secretariat, Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification (SIIL), and other relevant partners.

It is therefore my honour to invite you to the co-creation consultation meeting scheduled for September 9 & 10 at Saly in Senegal. CORAF will meet all expenses related to your travel as well as board and lodging during the workshop days. Kindly let me know if you are available to take part in this consultation so that the necessary arrangements can be made for your participation.

In anticipation of a positive response, I thank you in advance for your usual collaboration with the CORAF secretariat.

Sincerely yours

Abdou Tenkouano
Executive Director

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